



KIDSAVE®

...BECAUSE EVERY CHILD NEEDS A FAMILY



Weekend Miracles LA

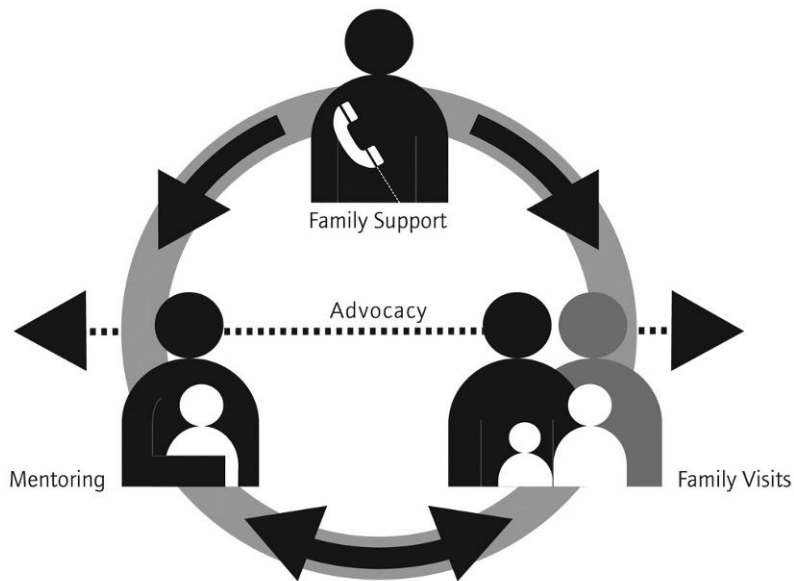
- Partnership between
 - Department of Children and Family Services
 - Kidsave
 - Organizational Partners
 - Community Volunteers and Host Families
- Based on:
 - work with 150 older children
 - over a six year period



Weekend Miracles is Based on Family Visit Model

FV Model is built on the premise that once people meet older children in need, they will be compelled to help.

1. Hosting combined with activities to introduce children to the host's circle of friends, media outreach and other community relations
2. Mentoring
3. Training and support for families and children



Weekend Miracles is Built On...

- The **idea** that hosting and advocacy can provide permanent connections for older children
- **Introducing** children to the community through host families, the media and events
- **Experience** that once people meet older children many will adopt
- **Community engagement** – The private sector has an important role to play in helping all local children grow up to be productive adults



Core Strategies

- Open the door wider
 - Families do not need home study to spend time with youth
 - One year commitment
- Recruit hosts for “weekend” visits
- Partnerships
 - Recruitment of families and volunteers
 - Sponsor events
- Child specific advocacy
- Monthly events for engagement



Partner Roles and Responsibilities

DCFS

- Youth Identification, referral and preparation
- Assessment, clearances, & approval of families
- Matching and placement services
- Pre and post adoption related services

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- Family recruitment, training and support
- Child specific advocacy and events
- Partnership Development
- Fundraising

Both

- Protocols
- Host matching
- Recruitment



Who are the Youth?

- Unattached (e.g., no family or connections) youth
 - ages 9-17
 - need permanent family
 - TPR complete FR services terminated
- Living with a foster family, in group home or residential center
- Open to:
 - Adoption
 - Guardianship
 - Connection
- Mentally and physically able to handle the program



Profile of Weekend Miracles Youth

- Average age at referral: 13
- Average age of participant: 15.5
- Number of years in care: 7+
- Number of placements: 7+
- Live in foster homes, group homes and residential facilities
- History of trauma and instability
- Behind their peers academically
- Many are ambivalent about wanting a permanent family



Who are Hosts?

- Unpaid volunteers
 - Trained and screened by DCFS
- Make a minimum commitment
 - 1 year
 - 2 weekends each month
- Build a relationship
- Provide safe, stable environment
- Support child with academics, life skills & transitions
- Bridge for adoption
- Some adopt, some foster
- Others stay connected, help youth transition from foster care



Monthly Advocacy Events



- Provide opportunities for children needing hosts as well as those in hosting to meet and interact with potential host and adoptive families
- Interactive, “tween” and teen friendly
- Interested families can come after attending an orientation



Matching Youth and Hosts

- Organic
- Based on connections formed at advocacy events
- Both youth and adult have a say in their match



Measurement and Tracking

- Primary measures for children include:
 - Permanency Status
 - Hosting status
- Other statistics:
 - Youth placement history
 - Youth educational status – 92% on track to or have graduated high school
 - Youth and families demographics
 - Recruitment and advocacy activities results



Outcomes For Youth

Total Youth Served	150
% Achieved or in process of legal permanency (Adoption of guardianship)*	53%
% of youth in a connection (in hosting, exited with host or living with NREFM)*	29%
% of youth connected	82%

**excluding 37 exited & on hold*



Outcomes For Youth

Legal Permanency finalized	28
Legal Permanency in process	33
Youth Placed with Host or Relative or NREFM	5
Youth who have exited with a Host	16
Youth currently in Hosting	10
Youth who need a host (7 of these have families awaiting approval)	15
On Hold	4
Exited Program (not appropriate for program)	33
Emancipated - without connection	5
Total Youth Served	150
% Achieved or in process of legal permanency (excluding 37 exited & on hold)	53%
% of youth in a connection (excluding 37 exited & on hold)	28%
% of youth connected	81%

**45% of the youth in process or achieved legal permanency are a result of Kidsave hosting or Kidsave advocacy*



Breakdown of Connection Durations

Total Kids Matched to Date	85
Less than one year	32 (35%)
One to two years	26 (29%)
Two to three years	11 (12%)
Three years plus	21 (24%)
Average Duration of All Matches	1.77 yrs



Impact

- Legal and Non-Legal Permanency
- Getting families the county would otherwise not have
- Social workers see that the hardest to place CAN be placed
- Youth Empowerment
- Cost Savings



Impact: Cost Savings

- Savings to LA County *
 - **\$6,300,951 achieved savings** as of 12/30/12
 - County expenses for program: \$1,428,255
 - Actual achieved savings (minus expenses): **\$4,872,696**
 - Anticipated savings from pending adoptions: \$67, 025
 - Total savings to LA County: **\$4,939,721**

** Based on OYAP and P3 cost savings formula and calculates savings up to age 18. This is for children in the program ,regardless of whether the child found family directly as a result of WM.*



Impact: Cost Savings

- Immediate -- to the Child Welfare System
 - Children moving to lower level of care
 - Children moving to legal permanency
- *Long-Term – to state and federal government, to society
 - Lower rates of homelessness
 - Less unemployment and underemployment
 - Lower rates of unwanted pregnancy
 - Less use of emergency mental and physical health services
 - Lower rates of incarceration

**These cost savings are assumed based on research for similar programs. There is currently no empirical data for Weekend Miracles specifically.*



Key Challenges

- Weekend Hosting is new for DCFS (and the US! LA County is an innovator)
- Labor-intensive -- staffing issues for both county and Kidsave
- Referral pipeline for youth
- Time to approve families is too long
- Short-term and sustainable funding
- No evidence based evaluation –no control or comparison group



Funding and Expansion Challenges

- Current funds for WM come from:
 - Kidsave:
 - DHHS Diligent Recruitment grant (25%)
 - Kidsave support from foundations and private donors (75%)
- Staffing resources for both Kidsave and DCFS are not adequate to grow this program

How Can WM Impact More Youth?

- In 2013, goal is to increase unattached youth to 40
- DCFS needs additional SW's to refer kids and vet families
- Kidsave needs additional staff to support families throughout process
- The program would be of benefit to kids in long term foster care, not only kids with plan of adoption
- System wide awareness and integration into permanency plans



Ways to Fund Weekend Miracles

- Short-term: 2013 -2015 – continues to be challenging, Kidsave needs additional staff/funding
- Mid-term: identify funding in DCFS budget so an RFP for services can be issued (to start when DHHS grant ends on 9/30/15)
- Sustainable/Long-term
 - Budget Modification
 - Access Title IV-E funds for WM
 - Consider other innovative funding models
 - Permanency Fund – Reinvestment of Saving
 - Social Impact Bond – Pay for Success model



Kidsave Weekend Miracles

